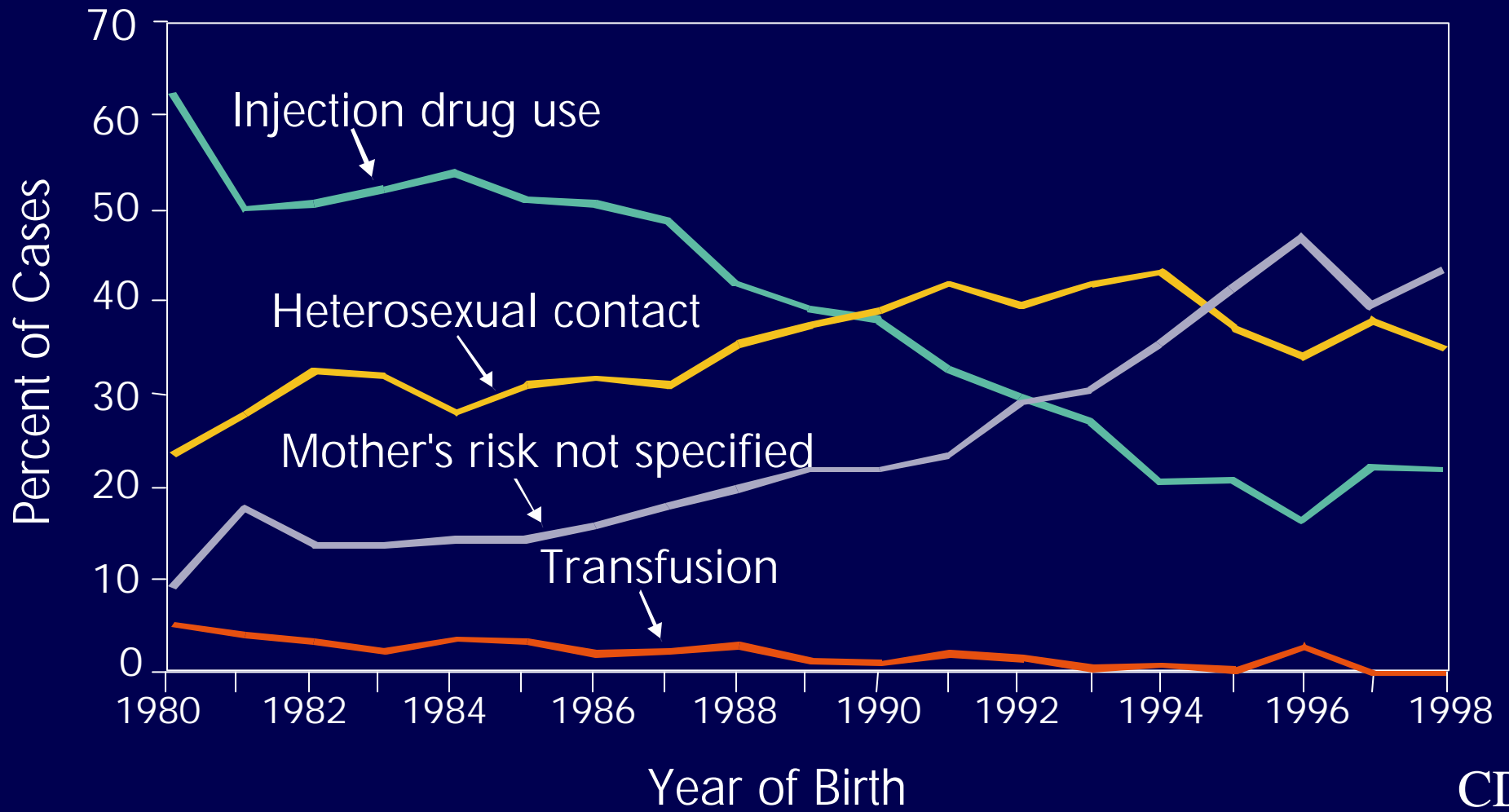


Mother's Exposure Category by Year of Child's Birth for Perinatally Acquired AIDS, 1980-1998, United States



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Among children who were infected perinatally and developed AIDS, the distribution of their mothers' exposure categories has changed over time. In the early 1980s, the majority of these women were exposed to HIV through injection drug use, and only 10-15% of the women were initially reported without a risk. In 1998, 21% of these women were known to be exposed to HIV through injection drug use, and 44% were initially reported without a risk specified. Most of the cases reported without a risk will be reclassified to the recognized risk categories as further information is reported and may well be identified as having been infected through heterosexual transmission. In addition, the proportion of women exposed to HIV by a heterosexual partner HIV-infected or with a known risk has increased from 22% in 1980 to 35% in 1998. Not surprisingly, these trends are similar to those seen among women with AIDS.